

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093881

14

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 TRSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENGR, IN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT OF MOBIL OIL GEOLOGISTS TO KASHMIR

REF: NEW DELHI 5722

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

1. DEPTOFF CALLED HEMER, MOBIL OIL, MAY 16. HEMER SAID HE HAD INITIATED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE VISIT WHEN HE WAS IN SRINAGAR IN APRIL, AND HAD SINCE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH ROY CHOWDHRY OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA. HEMER'S CABLE TO SWEETWOOD REFLECTS CABLE WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM ROY CHOWDHRY MAY 11 INSTRUCTING HIM TO SEND PHOTOS AND FULL BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF PROPOSED TEAM MEMBERS TO THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR CLEARANCE, WHICH HEMER HAS DONE. HEMER SAID ROY CHOWDHURY'S MAY 11 CABLE ALSO ADVISED MOBIL TO CONTACT EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CLEARANCE.

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2. HEMER SAID PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS BASIC GEOLOGICAL FAMILIARIZATION, AS PART OF A TRIP MOBIL CONDUCTING IN NORTHERN IRAN AND PAKISTAN. SOME TOURISM ALSO INVOLVED. THE COMPANY IS NOT RPT NOT ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO DO DETAILED SURVEY. IN THIS REGARD, HEMER SAID HE HAD ASKED WHETHER GEOLOGICAL SURVEY COULD PROVIDE A GEOLOGIST TO ACCOMPANY MOBIL PARTY IN DRIVE FROM SRINAGAR TO JAMMU. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HEMER SAID HE ASSUMED FROM

CORRESPONDENCE TO DATE WITH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY THAT CLEARANCE WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT.

3. GIVEN EMBASSY' S VIEW OF GOI RELUCTANCE TO APPROVE WORKING FIELD TRIP INITIATED FROM COMPANY SIDE, AS EXPRESSED PARA FOUR REFTEL, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT INTERVENE TO SEEK CLEARANCE BY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MOBIL REQUEST. HOWEVER, DEPT SEES NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY' S INQUIRING WITH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON LOW KEY BASIS INTO STATUS OF PROPOSAL. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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